

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The office action of July 19, 2004 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. By the present amendment, Applicants have canceled claims 2, 4, 5, 8-10, 12, 14, 15, 18-20, 22, 24, 25, and 28-30, and added new claims 31-54. Claims 1, 6, 7, 11, 16, 17, 21, 26, 27, and 31-54 remain pending after entry of the present amendment. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections

Claims 2, 12, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ganesh *et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,647,510). By the present amendment, Applicants have canceled claims 2, 12, and 22, rendering this rejection moot.

Claims 3-5, 8-10, 13-15, 18-20, 23-25, and 28-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ganesh in view of Jain *et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 5,806,075). Claims 3, 13, and 23 were previously canceled in an amendment filed March 29, 2004, and thus the rejection is inapplicable with respect to those claims. By the present amendment, Applicants have canceled claims 4, 5, 8-10, 14, 15, 18-20, 24, 25, and 28-30, rendering this rejection moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claims 1, 6, 7, 11, 16, 17, 21, 26, and 27. The Office Action states that claims 7, 17, and 27 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, and therefore must be rewritten in independent form. However, claims 7, 17, and 27 are dependent on independent claims 6, 16, and 26, respectively, each of which stands allowed. Therefore, no amendment to claims 7, 17, and 27 is necessary.

New Claims

Applicants have added new claims 31-54. Claims 31-38 depend back to allowed claim 1; claims 39-46 depend back to allowed claim 11; and claims 47-54 depend back to allowed claim 21. The dependent claims are drawn from originally filed claims and/or other subject matter supported by the specification as filed—no new matter has been added. Applicants submit that each new claim is allowable based on the allowance of their respective base claims.

CONCLUSION

All rejections having been addressed, Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicit prompt notification of the same. However, if for any reason the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance or there are any questions, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 824-3153.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated this 30 day of Sept., 2004

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